



STATE SENATOR **Wayne Kuipers**

30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



Senator Kuipers Receives Education Award

The Michigan Parent, Teacher and Student Association has awarded Senator Kuipers with its 2005 Presidents Award for his work in changing the state's testing program for high-school students. Senator Kuipers led the effort in the Legislature to use a college entrance exam-based test in place of the MEAP test given to high school juniors. The Governor signed the legislation and Michigan Merit Exam will be based on a test such as the ACT or SAT and will first be given in 2007.

Senate Education Committee Passes Character Bill

This week the Senate Education Committee passed SB 93, which would require the Department of Education to develop a character development model. The model would then be made available to school districts throughout the state for adoption and implementation for grades K-12. This bill now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

Governor Proposes Closing Grand Haven State Police Post

This week Governor Granholm unveiled a plan to close three State Police posts. The State Police posts that would be closed include those located in Grand Haven, Iron River, and Holly. Senator Kuipers, whose district includes Grand Haven, has vowed to fight to get more answers before this proposal is adopted.

The Department of Treasury Encourages Taxpayers to E-file

Taxpayers filing paper returns should not expect to receive their returns until at least eight weeks from the date they were mailed, but taxpayers using e-file could receive their returns within just two weeks. Last year, many taxpayers who filed paper returns waited sixteen to eighteen weeks before they received returns, but this year the department is hiring a number of temporary employees to improve processing time.

If you are seeking information on the status of your return or have other questions, you may wish to visit the department's self-service website at www.michigan.gov/treasury (please allow them at least five weeks after mailing to post information about your return for viewing). Simply follow the *Individual* link on the left side of the screen and the *Self Service* link at the bottom of the screen.

Pothole Hotline

The Michigan Department of Transportation is asking motorists to call or send an e-mail to report potholes on state roads. Those reporting pothole locations are asked to provide the route name, county, nearest community, and closest cross street or interchange. To report a pothole call 1-888-296-4546 at any time or log on to www.michigan.gov/mdot on the internet.